What year did Polycarp write his epistle to the Philippians?

Most scholars date Polycarp's Epistle to the Philippians to the first half of the second century, usually between about 110 and 140 CE, rather than a single precise year.[1] [2]

Scholarly dating range

Many researchers connect the letter's date to that of Ignatius of Antioch's martyrdom and letters, since Polycarp refers to Ignatius and transmits his epistles; on the traditional view that Ignatius died under Trajan around 108 CE, Polycarp's letter is often placed shortly after, in the 110s–120s. Others who date Ignatius (and thus Polycarp's interaction with him) later into the 130s–140s correspondingly move Polycarp's Philippian letter into that period.[3] [1]

Composite letter hypothesis

A common proposal is that the extant work combines an earlier "cover letter" that accompanied Ignatius's letters with a later "crisis letter" responding to issues in Philippi. On this view, one part might belong closer to c. 110–120, while the other is placed by some scholars around the 130s, though Polycarp's martyrdom (c. 155–167) is an upper bound for any portion.[1] [3]

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epistle_of_Polycarp_to_the_Philippians
2. https://www.christian-history.org/polycarps-philippian-epistle.html
3. https://www.reddit.com/r/AcademicBiblical/comments/s0lshf/what_is_the_most_probable_date_for_polycarps/
4. https://www.tismercyall.com/blog/5mlnmo0lnlcdbwqarbqsixtimnsa6i
5. https://evidenceunseen.com/theology/historical-theology/polycarp
6. https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0136.htm
7. https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Ante-Nicene_Christian_Library/Epistle_of_Polycarp_to_the_Philippians
8. https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/review/polycarps-epistle-to-the-philippians-and-the-martyrdom-of-polycarp/